



IN WOMAN'S REALM

Ferns For the Mantel.

A pretty way for decorating the mantelpiece, or ornamental shelf, frequently adopted in the tropics, is to get a small wooden box, two feet and a half long and five inches wide, with the back three inches high and the front only one inch. This is filled with a mixture of rich mould and sand, in which are planted as many small ferns as the box will hold, says the Chicago News. The ferns in front must be planted in such a way that they fall gracefully over the edge of the box.

Gentle and Womanly.

"In personal conversation with the czar one is struck immediately with the shrinking shyness and softly apprehensive, almost feminine sweetness of the Russian Emperor," says Arnold White in Everybody's Magazine for March. "The contrast between the melancholy and reflective czar and the exuberantly vital Kaiser, bubbling and boiling with unrepentant life power, can be appreciated only by those who have conversed with both. It must not be supposed that the czar Nicholas II. is destitute of strength because his habitual look on life is rather one of Oriental resignation than that of the hopefulness that might be expected from the head of a great Christian nation. The czar is remarkable for a dignity which is the more noticeable because he is small in size, and his voice is gentle and womanly. The dignity is like the dignity of Queen Victoria, which impressed everyone who entered the presence."

The Business Woman.

She has not hundreds of dollars to spend upon her wardrobe, consequently if she is wise she finds out what color is the most becoming and buys an office gown of that color and uses it as the foundation upon which she builds her system of dress.

This color scheme makes it possible to wear one article with various articles of clothing without appearing radiantly dressed like a bird of paradise, and nothing in a business woman's office dress is more detestable than flattery.

Simplicity, cleanliness, harmony are the three qualities essential to the business woman's wardrobe.

Since the woman who earns her bread must be economical the scheme of adopting as a foundation a certain becoming color and buying other articles to harmonize with that color is the surest way of saving money.

It is the high and false estimate of the value of fine clothes which leads many a girl to a discontent which argues ill for her future.

It is not so much how many clothes the business woman possesses as it is the kind of clothing she wears and her general appearance.—Exchange.

The Leap Year Proposal.

Leap year still holds the interest and attention of women, but one can scarcely imagine the state of mind of the girl who needs to inquire of an editor how to propose. Given the fact that the lady wishes to propose, there are surely plenty of ways open to her, not necessarily always a formal proposal in words; the pressure of a hand, a look, a broken sentence, a silent tear, are often far more efficacious; and in the language of love looks stand for words. Only the most dry-natured and abrupt think it necessary to "pop the question" in so many definite sentences; both in books and in real life the art of wooing is very different from the stereotyped idea of the general public. "Three confessions of the inner life would reveal in many cases that the woman had taken the initiative, that she had encouraged, assisted and actually led her lover unconsciously into marriage, and that no actual proposal ever really took place. The proposal of a heavenly minded divine must differ radically from that of a rough and unpolished soldier, while the flowery compliments of the poet might leave his hearer in the dark as to his actual intentions; but such is the subtlety of the girl, whatever her age and experience, that she knows instinctively, without words, her lover's meaning.

What Girls Can Do.

It is the girl who does things in this world who is attractive, both to men and to her own sex, which last counts a little, too, in the long run.

You may not be able to do great things, to paint great pictures or to sing in grand opera, but you can learn to make bright little things for yourself and your friends, and perhaps to play the light, "coquettish" air of the day so that your friends will enjoy them, and if you can't do anything else cultivate the art of talking brightly and of being sympathetic.

Every girl can do one thing well if she will only take the trouble to find out what that thing is.

The difficulty is that she often looks in the opposite direction; she wants to do something great and showy or nothing at all.

But there are other talents within reach if she will only look, and these talents may be such a comfort to her in her dark hours that they will make life better and happier both for her and those about her.

How the world likes a cheerful, plucky girl who makes a brave fight and hides her skeleton in a closet instead of folding her hands and whin-

ing because things don't come her way; the girl who puts her own griefs as much as possible aside—who takes a wholesome interest in life.

The Suitable Shoes.

A shoe that keeps the foot always in good condition must be first of all comfortable. The walking shoe should be an extension sole, so as to give a good base and prevent the foot from being turned by irregularities in the roadway.

The toe of the walking shoe should be sufficiently broad to leave the toes of the foot absolutely uncramped. Any contraction of the leather which binds the toes, even a little, must produce not only discomfort but in the end disease. The broadly rounded toe is therefore important.

The heel should be broad and not over one inch high. Rubber is applied to the bottom of the heel, to the inside of the heel, and in the form of a pad placed inside the shoe. The principle in each of these is excellent. No one should walk on a solid heel.

The instep should be lined with diagonal facing instead of straight across, or in such a way as to permit the upper to fit itself to the shape of the foot freely.

The lining of the shoe plays an important part. It must be carefully put in and it must not wear out sooner than the upper of the shoe.

The upper of the shoe should be formed upon a last which represents the position of the foot when flat on the floor, not in the position of a foot when held in the air.

The sensible people have for many years dressed their feet on these lines.

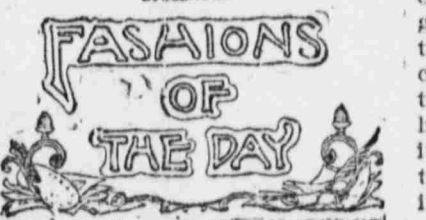
Daily Life of Little Girls.

The average girl, capable of becoming an executive, well-informed woman, is born with a love for the homely, sweet and practical things of life, and it is to this wholesome, unspoiled child instinct that effort must be directed in domestic education. And the task is so much easier when the work is begun early in life, under the guise of play.

There are those who advocate beginning with the very little ones of three and four years of age, and building up, along with all their other training, a systematic course in household duties. Give them principles and rules, teach them rule and method, and while they are practicing in a small way, suited to their surroundings, be quite sure that they are doing everything in the right way. It is easier to teach the child now, and form the habit of working right, than it will be by and by to undo wrong teaching, and form new habits of doing things.

It is not at all difficult to teach the little girl in her doll housekeeping to put things in their proper places, keep them there, and to do all the things at the proper time. She may have the correct method of housecleaning, how to give entertainment, and even the judicious management of her doll servants, if only mother knows how and has the wit and wisdom and patience and good humor to impart her knowledge in a happy, playful fashion.

Then, too, the mother can let the little girl do some real tasks, light ones, to be sure, but genuine work, making her feel sure that she is of importance, because she is "helping mother." Nothing makes a girl happier than the thought that she is doing something which is really worth while and not mere play.—Mirror-Farmer.



Long silk gloves are a feature of the shop and are a demand created by the present fashion of elbow-length sleeves.

A pretty dinner gown for a young miss is made of fine white voile over white silk and is trimmed with bands of pale blue silk.

One of the oldest of coiffure ornaments is a glittering and jeweled snake that is to be laid around the coils of the hair.

Glass toilet sets for the dressing table come in green, blue, pink and white glass and are prettily decorated with gold tracery work.

Dainty little pictures already framed in narrow black and oak frames, showing a great variety of subjects, are on the bargain counters for only a quarter.

Corsets that hook in the front and have a plain back are the latest in the corset line and are rather costly affairs. The lacing is directly on the front and the hooks are to one side.

There is a new coin holder just out. It is oblong in shape and has places for both five and ten cent pieces. Made of silver and gun metal, it has a ring in one end and is to be attached to a long chain.

Pretty little dressing sacks of silk and fine flannels as well as lawn are to be had, cut all in one piece, angel sleeves and all, and finished about the edges with hand-worked scallops button-holed in colored silks.

An aid to dressmakers is the sleeve form, which is made of iron, nickel plated, and is so light that it can be carried anywhere. It is of the proper shape to fit the sleeve and is adjustable, allowing both the upper and under part to be pressed by simply turning the form over.

FOUGHT A DEVIL FISH.

Heroic Struggle of a Fisherman With a Monster of the Deep—His Wife Saw the Contest—Returning From a Sail, Jacob Langtin Came in Contact With a Terror



HE length of a press dispatch is not always measured by the importance of the event it chronicles upon an individual life, says the San Francisco Bulletin.

"They that go down to the sea in ships," as a rule, meet their fate unheralded; the glamour that public recognition casts over the hero is not for them.

A story of suffering, courage, and endurance that speaks well for every day manhood and womanhood lies behind this little four-line item that appeared in the daily papers one day last week from Salinas:

"March 9.—Jacob Langtin, a farmer living near Kallier's Point, had a narrow escape from a devilish while fishing off the coast yesterday."

Jacob Langtin and his wife, Susan, cultivate a small piece of land on the south side of a little point that sticks out into the Pacific Ocean below Monterey Bay, known as Kallier's Point. A good-sized creek runs by one side of their land, and here Jacob has a boat landing and several boats, for when the occasion fits he loves to fish off shore. It is his old amusement.

For thirty years, as boy and man, Jacob Langtin followed the sea, and now, well past his prime, he has settled down on the little spot of earth he calls home with his wife to spend the remainder of his days in sunshine, and within hearing distance of the roll of the surf.

It was about a week ago that, returning one afternoon from a fishing trip, he met the accident that turned his gray hair a shade lighter and still makes sleep a threatening nightmare to his wife.

Langtin had spent the afternoon fishing off shore and was slowly rowing in toward the little lagoon where he usually ties up his boat after such trips. He was within a couple of hundred yards of the shore when, happening to glance around to take his bearings, he noticed a bunch of tangled drift almost on his bow. He gave one oar a twist to drive his boat closer to it. Like all shore dwellers, his eye roved over it to see if it contained wreckage of any value. As his boat swished alongside he gave it a poke with his oar to see what it was. He was fast and filled or empty. The oar glanced on the side of the box and struck a round, smooth thing that looked like a burnished piece of fire loss. The thing moved; a sharp ugly-looking beak reared itself out of the ocean and two wicked round glazed eyes stared at Langtin over the side of the boat.

What horror was this? In all his seafaring experience Langtin had never seen the like, and it was not until a long snake-like tentacle flashed up and fell heavily across the boat that he realized that he was fairly in the grasp of the dreaded devilfish. In its rage the cetopous swayed the boat in the clutch of its powerful tentacle. It required no effort of the imagination for Langtin to foresee his end should his oar be brought within reach of that powerful beak.

He stooped and grasped a hatchet that lay near him in the stern of the boat. Stepping cautiously but swiftly forward, he struck a savage blow at the only tentacle yet within reach. The tough muscles yielded like rubber under the axe. He knew that this was but one of but seven or eight arms, and despair almost overpowered him. Again and again he struck, each time severing pieces of the terrible arm that was trying to overturn the boat and drag it down. The tentacle began to weaken, but while he was yet hacking at it another shot out of the water and fell heavily across the boat; another followed it.

All this time he was dimly conscious of his wife running up the beach, crying frenziedly for help. She could see plainly the struggle that was going on, and knew that something terrible was happening, without at all comprehending what monster it was that had her husband in its grasp. In her agony she waded out waist deep into the water. The sun was turning to a red globe of fire in the west, but it had lost its heat.

Langtin now says that in this terrible situation his mind took in the minutest details of the scene around him. The green of the hills, the trees stirred by the light breezes, the red sinking sun, the sheen of the light upon the water, the calmly heaving ocean, and his frenzied wife upon the beach. There was no help anywhere, and his heart swelled in rage against the cold helplessness around him.

If he was to be saved it must be by his own strength and his own courage. He had never prayed and he did not know how.

By this time the terrible monster had two of its great arms around the unfortunate man; one wrapped around his legs and one around his body. Langtin was clinging to the seat with one arm and the other hand he was hacking at the death-grasping arms of the devilfish, especially where they lay across of a solid bow.

As the creature seemed about to lift its repulsive body over the side of the boat, Langtin found a chance to strike it a heavy blow between the eyes. It gave back slightly, but still maintained the hold of its tentacles. Not only that, but another rose, waving in the air, and circled his waist.

The tentacles that now swept around his body and seemed to be crushing the very life out of him had no further power to daunt him. He seized the repulsive, slimy thing with one hand and sank with it to the bottom of the boat. With two powerful blows where it bent across the thwart he severed it from the creature's body.

A few more blows were needed to sever the remaining tentacles, and the great devilfish, with inarticulate noises, slid off into the water, leaving an inkly trail behind it.

It was more for soon. With the last

blow Langtin sank to his knees or, exhausted with the nervous strain.

For a minute his wife had stood waist deep in the water watching, with fast-beating heart, the terrible struggle taking place in the little row-boat. She had entered in the water with a half-frenzied idea of wading or swimming out to the assistance of her husband, so terrible was the agony of her own inaction and helplessness.

A half-conscious gesture of her husband had stayed the rash act, and had brought her to her senses. She hesitated but a moment to collect her scattered wits.

Then she hastened toward a skiff tied to the wharf. At first her trembling limbs would scarce support her, but as she ran she gathered strength. Under ordinary circumstances the skiff was too heavy for her to launch from where it lay on the beach. Yet now she managed to get the boat into the water. Terror gave her strength and some way she managed to work the boat in the direction of her husband. Luckily, he was not more than 100 feet away. The fight was over before she reached the emaciated man, but her aid in reviving the exhausted man was more than timely.

It will be many long days before either fully recovers from the effects of that terrible fight.

Langtin says he wouldn't go through the experience again for all the land in the country. His wife declares she still wakens from her sleep and the fearful dream that the terrible devilfish is reaching another great arm out of the sea to grasp her husband.

HUNTING OCEAN VAMPIRES.

Monster Sometimes Reverses the Role and Becomes the Hunter.

With the possible exception of the basking shark, the "Sea Devil" or "Ocean Vampire" is the largest of all the monsters of the deep. An unborn ocean vampire, taken from the mother, preserved at the British Museum, is five feet long, and before mounting weighed twenty pounds. The mother measured some fifteen feet in length and quite as much in breadth.

It is at all times a dangerous undertaking to attempt to capture one of these monsters, says the Sunday Magazine, but particularly so in the case of a mother accompanied by her offspring. She is quite capable of reversing the role of hunter and hunted, attacking and capturing the boat containing her would-be captors, and of seeing that none of them escapes alive.

"Imagine," writes the Hon. William Elliot, in describing the exciting sport he had in hunting ocean vampires, "a monster from sixteen to twenty feet across the back, full three feet in depth, possessed of powerful yet flexible flaps or wings, with which he drives himself furiously in the water or vaults high in the air, through which he swims like some enormous bird; his feelers (commonly called horns) projecting several feet beyond his mouth, and paddling all the small fry that constitute his food into that capacious receptacle—and you will have an idea, though an imperfect one, of this extraordinary fish."

The so-called "horns" to which allusion is made are a singular feature in this animal. The pectoral or breast fins, much elongated, pointed, arched in front, concave behind, stop short at the head, to reappear as frontal appendages projected on each side of the head. These appendages take the form and character of flimsy, being flexible and capable of grasping prey and carrying it to the mouth. The "feelers," as they are called, are sometimes three feet or more in length, and are curiously articulated at the ends so as to resemble the fingers of a human hand when clenched.

In this way fishing boats and vessels of a much larger size have been dragged from their moorings and in some cases capsize by the ocean vampire's having laid hold of the anchor. An instance of this kind occurred in the harbor of Charleston. A schooner lying at anchor, suddenly and seemingly of its own volition, to the amazement and alarm of those on board, started at a furious rate across the harbor. Upon nearing the opposite bank its course changed so abruptly as almost to capsize the vessel, and it recrossed the harbor to its former moorings.

These mysterious flights across the harbor were repeated a number of times in the presence of hundreds of astonished spectators, who were utterly at a loss to account for the phenomenon. The migrations ceased suddenly as they began. Not till then did the back and undulating flukes of an immense ocean vampire, appearing above the water of the harbor, disclose the motive power that caused it all.

One of the curious habits of the fish is to throw somersaults, sometimes at a considerable distance beneath the surface, sometimes in the air above the surface. The reason for this peculiar practice, which is kept up for hours, has, so far as the writer knows, never been conjectured. At times the great fish will throw himself bodily perhaps as much as ten or twelve feet into the air. A young man student of Columbia University, writing from Port of Spain, describes the flight of one of these sea monsters, which passed completely over him and the light boat he was rowing.

Bedrooms in Trees.

A remarkable hotel is in California, on the road between Santa Cruz and San Jose. California possesses the largest trees in the world, and a shrewd hotelkeeper has conceived the idea of utilizing as a wayside hostelry a group of these mammoths, thus saving himself the cost of building or rent.

The hollow trunk of one tree, whose circumference is about twenty-two yards, is arranged as a reception room, and the surrounding space, sheltered by a thick roof of spreading branches, serves as dining room and smoking room. A number of other smaller hollow trunks make comfortable bedrooms, furnished in the most approved style, and sometimes at a little distance occupied by the hotel staff.

Windfall For the State.

The State of Minnesota is enriched to the extent of \$10,000 by the recent death of Mrs. Purheart Wakeley, of Sharon, aged 111 years, who left no heirs. She had lived alone for many years.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE, CHAPLAIN OF THE SENATE.

When a clergyman is a genius, like the saintly-looking, blind Dr. Milburn, and can make a prayer in thirty seconds that will have all the fervor of a ten-minute petition by another, he is



EDWARD EVERETT HALE, NEW CHAPLAIN OF THE SENATE.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale, the veteran Unitarian minister and author, has been chosen Chaplain of the Senate to succeed William H. Milburn, who died last year. Dr. Hale is in his eighty-second year, and has been pastor of the South Congregational Church, in Boston, for almost half a

century. He is best known as the author of "The Man Without a Country," one of the most widely discussed of modern books. In addition to his activity in ministerial and literary work, Dr. Hale has been prominent in such enterprises as the "Chautauqua" circles and "Lend-a-Hand" clubs.

an ideal Senate chaplain. The election of the Rev. Edward Everett Hale to succeed Dr. Milburn was due to the suggestion of the venerable Senator Hoar.

The salary of a Congressional chaplain is \$800 a year. His duties are simple. He must be in his place before the desk when the gavel falls at noon. The members stand with bowed heads and he makes his prayer. That is all. He is then at liberty to go home until the next day. During the summer recesses and at other times when Congress is not in session, he has nothing to do but sign his salary warrant. He is expected to keep up with the current events, and to refer to such as may be proper in his prayers, and also to pray for a dead Representative or Senator. Dr. Milburn prayed once every session for the reporters and once for the Capitol employees.

FILLER FOR FOUNTAIN PENS.

Lyman Fisk has invented a convenient device for filling fountain pens. There are two pipes which lead from the source of supply into the pen, one



to carry the ink and the other to feed air into the bottle to relieve the vacuum caused by the removal of the ink. As the air to supply this vacuum is taken from inside the pen reservoir it is obvious that when the ink has risen to a certain height a return flow of the ink will supplant the movement of air, continuing as long as ink is pumped from one holder to the other.

Theatre and Fire.

Since the Chicago theatre fire the life of the theatre manager in Berlin has not been a happy one. The police decree was promptly issued under which, ever since, at every theatre in the city, the iron fire curtain has had to be lowered after every act, and as this curtain weighs about five tons, the constant repetition of the operation is not without its inconveniences. The other night it brought about a queer deadlock at the Metropol Theatre, where, as the fire curtain stuck at the end of the last act but one, the performance was stopped for the night, despite the protests of the public, who did not even get their money back. The only solace offered by the management was to fix the lapsed act for the afternoon next but one, for which tickets were issued free as the audience left the theatre.—London Globe.

His Fifty-Fifth Castle.

The German Emperor proposes to have a castle at Posen to "conciliate the Poles." It will be his fifty-fifth castle. In addition, he owns ninety-three landed estates, but they bring him a little money, whereas the castles are costly.

NO GAME.



"No, Johnny, you went to one funeral yesterday and that's enough."

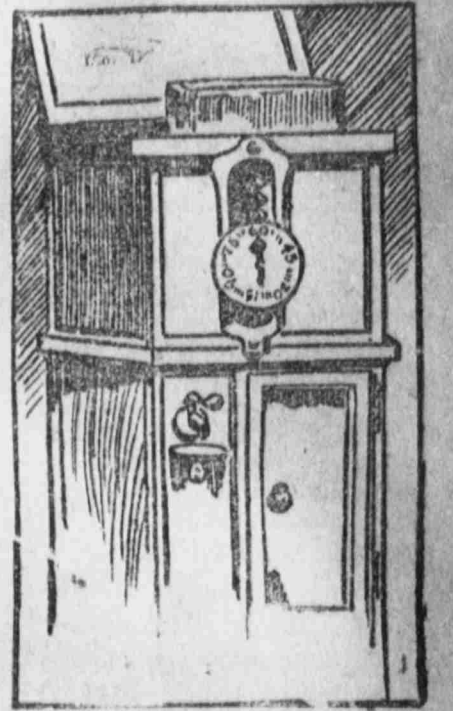
"Yes; but it rained yesterday and I got a rain check."—New York Journal.

ADJUSTABLE CUFF HOLDER.

An invention which has just been patented by William H. Page is likely to become popular with the man who is compelled to buy his shirts ready-made, and, consequently, has little choice as to sleeve lengths. Mr. Page's invention is a simple device for attaching the cuff to the wristband, and will commend itself to most men from the fact that its use will not result in un-

THE ICEMAN OUTDONE.

A great deal has been written and a great deal has been said about the iceman, and it is generally understood that not half of what is said and



THE REFRIGERATOR SCALES.

written would be allowed to go through the United States mails on account of its near approach to questionable literature. Most of all the hard things that have been directed at the deliverer of the daily piece of ice have been prompted by alleged short weight, and the problem of the coming summer will be how to insure getting your money's worth of the crystallized cake of water.

That there may be as little dispute over this point as possible there has been invented and patented an attachment for the refrigerator which weighs the ice as it is laid in that receptacle. When the iceman comes around and dumps the ice into the refrigerator and calls out "There's your ice," all you have to do is to look at the indicator on the outside to find that he is two pounds short. Confronting the villain with this damning evidence, there will be no trouble in persuading him to make up the deficiency.

Invading World's Markets.

The German Empire has appointed commercial experts at St. Petersburg, New York, Buenos Ayres, Valparaiso, Shanghai, Sydney, New South Wales, Pretoria and Constantinople. Doubtless the number of experts will be increased from time to time, as their value has been indicated by reports in the German papers.

Fruit For the Health.

There are people who cannot eat the more acid red fruits without suffering from a rash or other disturbances. But of oranges, grape fruit, peaches, apples, pears and grapes it is safe to say that most people would gain in health by making one or the other of them serve each day for an entire meal.

Fine Farming Country.

The Chinese Eastern Railway, the southeastern terminus of the great Siberian Railway, in its course through Manchuria to its end, at Port Arthur, passes through 1000 miles of as continuously rich agricultural country as can be found anywhere in the world. Every acre is cultivated.

UNAPPETIZING.

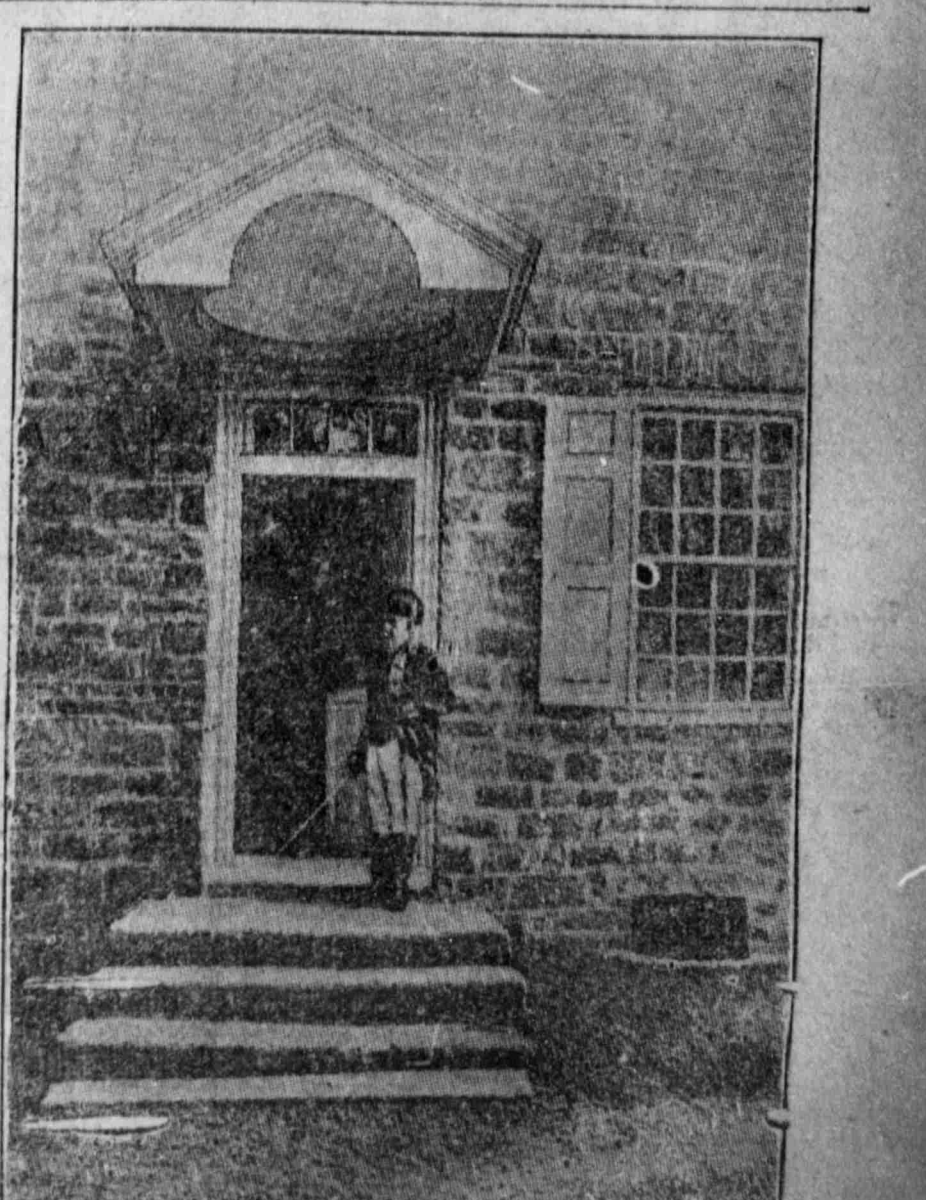


Walker Long—"Say, dis is do limit of bad taste! Ter serve a dinner on de wood pile! Wow!"—New York American.

Ancients Had Pins.

Pins have been found among the Egyptian mummies and in the prehistoric caves of Switzerland.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER
AS HE IS TO-DAY.
—Drawn From Life.



WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS, VALLEY Forge, Pa.